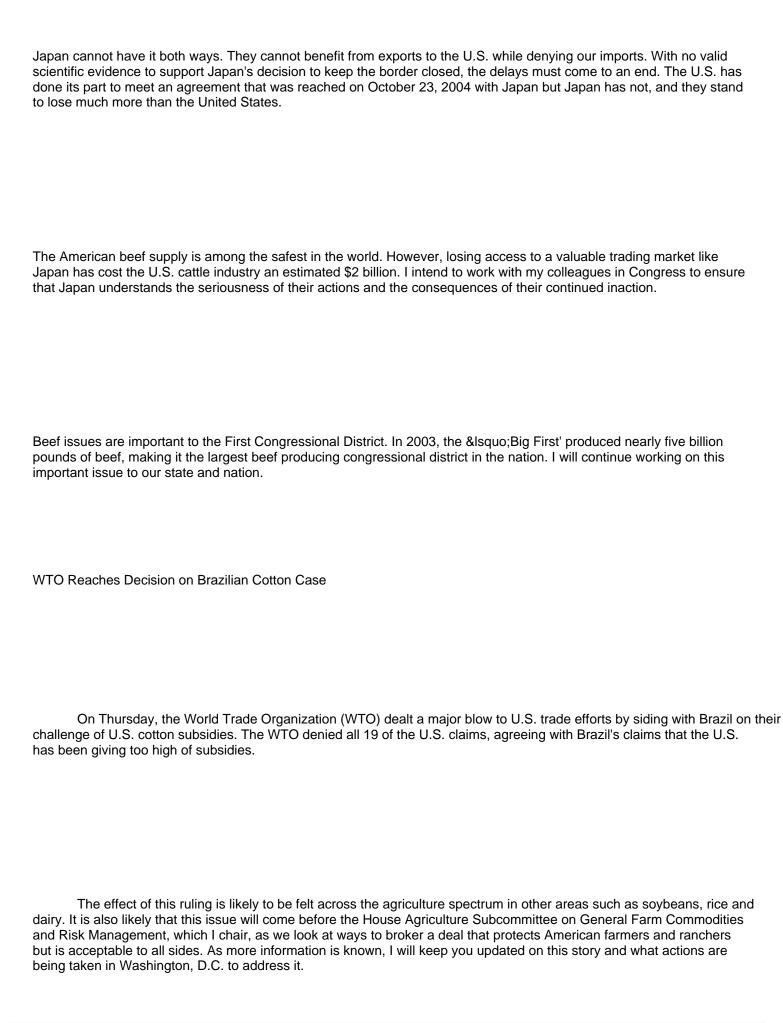
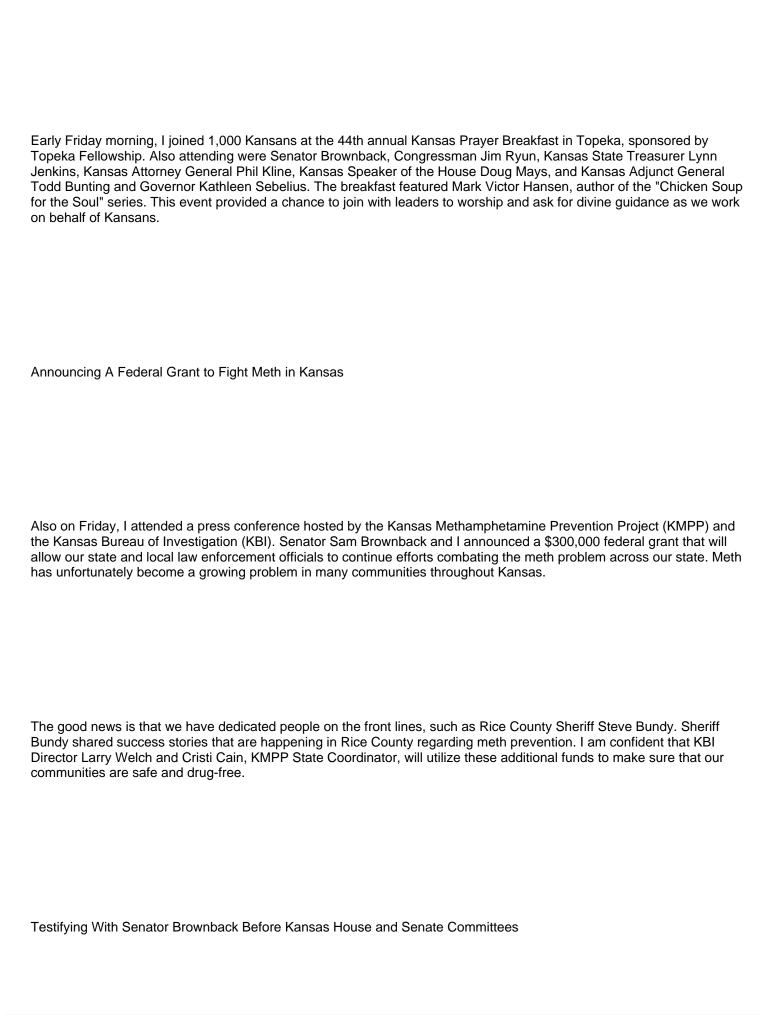
3/07/2005 This Week in Congress

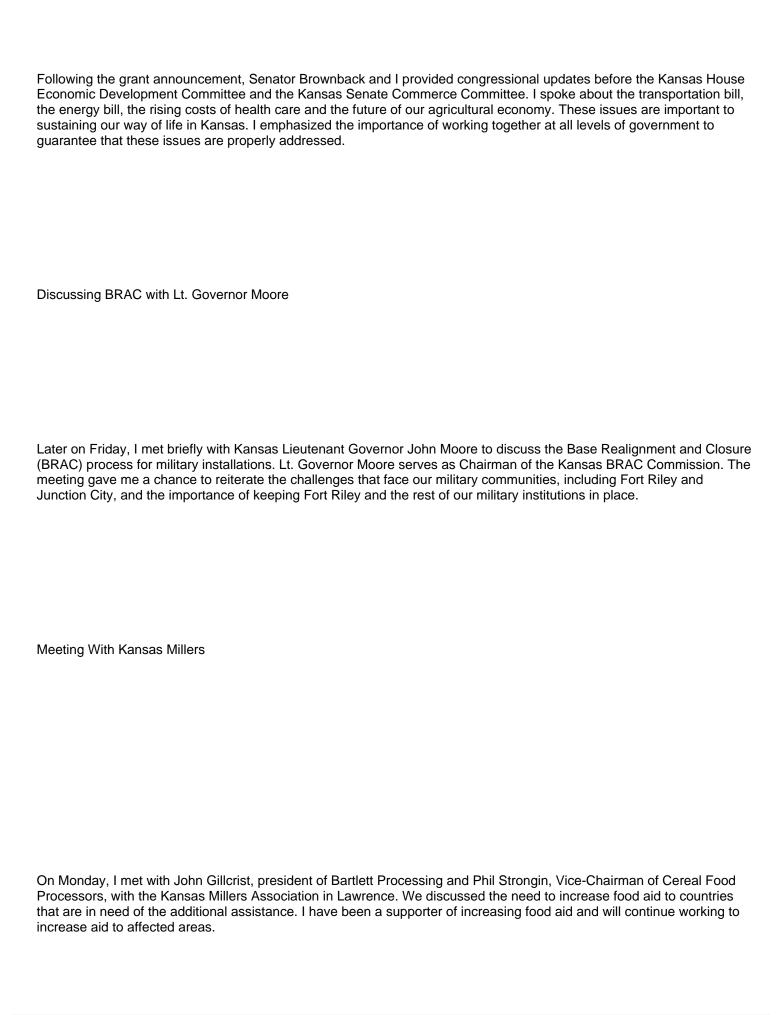
This Week in Congress
March 7, 2005
Dear Friend,
Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find it useful.
USDA Secretary Mike Johanns Discusses Beef and Canada
Livestock issues took center stage in Washington, D.C. this week. On Tuesday, the House Agriculture Committee held hearings with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns over the Canadian border issue.
During the hearing, I was able to question Agriculture Secretary Johanns about the decision to reopen the U.S. border to Canadian beef imports. Secretary Johanns also discussed the potential ramifications of that decision on other areas of our agriculture trade policy. I look forward to working with Secretary Johanns to tackle the major issues facing agriculture as we move forward over the coming months.

The Senate also took up the Canadian border issue this week and narrowly passed a resolution of disapproval to keep the border closed to Canadian beef imports. This legislation will now come to the House, after which, if it passes, it will go to the President for his signature. However, President Bush has already said that he will veto the legislation if it makes it to him, and its fate in the House is still unclear. The Administration believes that keeping the border closed with Canada hurts our position when negotiating on other trade issues like opening the Japanese beef markets.
Japanese Sanctions Sought
On Thursday, I held a press conference in Washington, D.C. to introduce a resolution calling on Japan to reopen its markets to U.S. beef. The press conference was attended by a number of Japanese journalists and has resulted in the Japanese Embassy's request for a meeting to discuss this situation.
We have waited long enough for our borders to be reopened with Japan. This resolution calls on Japan to reopen its border to U.S. beef or face immediate retaliatory economic sanctions. Its time for the Japanese government to understand that there are consequences if they continue to deny access to U.S. beef.
In December of 2003, the U.S. discovered a single case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in a Canadian dairy cow. Since that time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has aggressively implemented additional safety checks in the beef system to guarantee the safety of American beef. The result is that U.S. standards now exceed international beef safety standards.



Transportation Committee Passes Highway Bill
On Wednesday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act, to reauthorize federal highway, transit and public safety programs through the year 2009. This legislation will invest over \$2 billion in Kansas' transportation infrastructure, which is important to our state's economy and our ability to move both people and products. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee estimates that, for every \$1 billion invested in federal highway and transit, 47,500 jobs are created or sustained. The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration and is expected to be on the House floor for a vote next week.
As this legislation is considered, I will continue to work to strengthen and maintain Kansas' highways, roads, bridges and transit services.
Welcoming Reverend James Akers to the U.S. House
On Wednesday, I welcomed National American Legion Chaplain, Reverend James T. Akers from Madison to the House of Representatives. I had the pleasure of introducing him when he gave the morning prayer to the U.S. House of Representatives before we began our daily business. Reverend Akers is the Minister-at-large for the Anglican Orthodox Church in Kansas, and it was an honor to have him in Washington, D.C. I appreciated his taking time to travel to our nation's capital to participate in this important daily event.
Attending the Kansas Prayer Breakfast in Topeka





President Reagan's Campaign Team Comes to Kansas
Also in Lawrence, I joined Kansans for the 2005 Presidential Lecture Series at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. The Dole Center is an incredible addition to KU's campus and is a great resource for our state. The lecture brought Frank Donatelli, Ed Rollins, Craig Shirley and Richard Wirthlin to the center to discuss "Electing Reagan: The Presidential Campaigns." The distinguished panel of speakers-who are experts in the fields of political strategy, government and communications-were able to share their unique experiences and observations with the attendees.
Celebrating the Success of GlobalFlyer
On Thursday, the Salina community played host to and joined the world in celebrating the record-breaking around-the-world flight of Virgin Atlantic's GlobalFlyer. Pilot Steve Fossett flew around the world in 67 hours and two minutes, becoming the first pilot to fly around the world solo non-stop. He chose the Salina Municipal Airport for his trip's starting and ending point.
This was an exciting time for the Salina community, and I am honored that Virgin Atlantic and Mr. Fossett chose Salina to be a part of this historic flight. I am also proud of the people of Salina, and the surrounding area, for their enthusiastic support of this endeavor. I was able to see this enthusiasm first-hand during an earlier event celebrating the launch of

GlobalFlyer. Our state has a rich aviation history, and I am glad to see Salina play a role in this chapter of that history.
In the Office
My Washington, D.C. office was busy this week with a number of Kansans visiting to discuss a wide range of issues. Among those visiting were Mike Life and Todd Godfrey of Junction City, representing the Kansas Narcotics Association, to discuss homeland security issues and ongoing drug war. K-State Agriculture Dean Fred Cholick and Director Steven Graham of Manhattan, Assistant to the Director Connie Pelton Kays from Pittsburg and Steve Irsik from Ingalls were in on behalf of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Representatives to talk about federal funding for research, extension and training through USDA. Steve Ezell of Pratt, Monte Clarke and Matthew Clarke of Great Bend were in the office to discuss water well drilling issues. Rick Budden of Junction City, representing the Association of Civilian Technicians for the Army National Guard was in to talk about retirement benefits and overtime pay issues.
In representing the Kansas American Legion were David Warnken of Hutchinson, Elgin Wahlborg of Arkansas City and James Tull of Wichita to provide an update from the National American Legion and discuss Gulf War syndrome. Fred Lucky, senior vice-president of the Kansas Hospital Association, from Topeka, was in to talk about Medicaid issues. Dr. Richard Nelson of Manhattan, head of K-State Engineering Extension, was in to talk about energy efficiencies, while Ed McKechnie, Gary Lundy and Kirk Hawley of Pittsburg were in representing Kansas short line railroads to discuss the issues facing railroad operators in Kansas.
The U.S. Attorney for Kansas, Eric Melgren, paid a courtesy visit to the office to discuss prosecution and law enforcement issues, while Joseph York of Emporia was in on behalf of the National Teachers Hall of Fame to update me on the induction ceremony preparations. Wayne Godsey of Kansas City, Richard Wartell of Manhattan, Mark Vail of Hays, Patti McCormick of Independence and Executive Director Harriet Lange of Topeka were in representing the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. They discussed the rise of digital television, satellite radio and indecency standards. Representing the Kansas Credit Unions were Garth Strand with the Hutchinson Credit Union and David Dick with the Kansas Credit Union Association. Walter Hill of Hays was in the office on behalf of the High Plains Medical

Center to discuss general legislative issues facing the center.

Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller of Topeka was in to discuss the transportation bill and provide an update on Kansas' transportation projects. Gene Pflughoff of Ulysses, Luann Watson of Elkhart, De Ann Rickets of Sublette, Glenda Harvey of Ashland and Stanton Janssen, Bob Mosier and Stephanie of Otis were in representing Kansas Resource Conservation and Development to discuss program and budget issues. Sally Tesluk, Executive Director for the Community Health Center in Hutchinson, and Karla Finnell, Executive Director for the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved in Topeka, were in to discuss the upcoming community health center application process. Woody Woodward, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and Sue Peterson from K-State were in the office to discuss funding for K-State Salina to make repairs to their airport hangars and other infrastructure needs.	
Jessica Walters, a student at Lakin High School, and Katie Edwards, a student from Thomas More Prep in Hays, were the office. Also in the office was Leadell Ediger of Salina, Executive Director for the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agency to discuss early childhood and families in Kansas. Barney King, Commander of the Civil Air Patrol unit in Salina, was in the office to discuss defense issues and extending public safety officer benefits to the Civil Air Patrol. Britt Gates from the ZOIE Foundation in Anthony was in the office to discuss the transportation bill and child safety measures for vehicles.	in
Very truly yours,	
Jerry	